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libel, consisting of a series of articles published in *El Araucano* of Santiago (January 24 to July 4, 1834, nos. 176-199) by Don Manuel José Gandarillas, goes to make up volume XIV. of the series. Many original documents exceedingly valuable to the historian were inserted in these articles.

Each volume in the series is provided only with a brief introduction and an occasional foot-note, but the aim of the publishers is simply to make accessible in convenient form the scattered historical material for the period, and for this every student will be grateful. The volumes are well printed, but they are not supplied with alphabetical indexes. The editors however will no doubt at the close print a complete alphabetical index to all the volumes, without which half the usefulness of the collection will be lost to students.

LUIS M. PÉREZ.

Lincoln the Lawyer. By FREDERICK TREVOR HILL. (New York: The Century Company. 1906. Pp. xviii, 332.)

THIS is a book which would be interesting to any one; to a lawyer its interest is absorbing. In a manner and to a degree not attempted by any other biographer of Lincoln, Mr. Hill undertakes to determine and estimate Lincoln's character as a lawyer, and especially to point out, if not to emphasize, the extent to which his career as President was influenced by his experience and training at the bar. In the first direction Mr. Hill has undoubtedly rendered a conspicuous and important service. In a picturesque and graphic manner he portrays the social and economic conditions of the country, and the character of the bench and bar of Illinois, when Lincoln was admitted to the ranks of the profession in 1836. From that time Mr. Hill, with a sympathy and an insight inspired by his own professional experience, traces Lincoln's progress as a lawyer through a period of twenty-three years until, by the loyal and untiring support of his professional associates, "the leader of the Illinois bar and the idol of the Eighth Circuit" was declared the choice of the Republican convention at Chicago.

When we take into consideration the nature of Mr. Lincoln's legal training and the circumstances and conditions under which he practised; when we have made allowances for his numerous digressions into the field of politics, we cannot fail to be impressed with the conviction that his career as a lawyer was not only a creditable but a remarkable one. Thus in 1845—nine years after his admission to the bar—Lincoln appeared in twenty-three cases before the Supreme Court of Illinois. In the same year, for example, Lyman Trumbull—who, however, was admitted one year later than Lincoln—had nine cases. "In his twenty-three years at the bar," says Mr. Hill (pp. 248-250), "Lincoln had no less than one hundred and seventy-two cases before the highest court of Illinois, a record unsurpassed by his contemporaries; he appeared before the United States circuit and district courts with great frequency; he was the most indefatigable attendant on the Eighth

Circuit and tried more cases than any other member of that bar; he was attorney for the Illinois Central Railroad, the greatest corporation in the State, and one which doubtless had its choice of legal talent; he was also counsel for the Rock Island Railroad, and other corporations and individuals with important legal interests at stake; he was sought as legal arbitrator in the great corporation litigations of Illinois and he tried some of the most notable cases recorded in the courts of that State."

Mr. Hill devotes his final chapter to "Lincoln, the Lawyer, as President", and it is in this chapter, of course, that the chief interest of the non-professional reader lies. It reads more like an after-dinner speaker's response to a toast than like sober history. Its estimates of men and measures are often exaggerated, but it serves to emphasize the fact that among the many influences which helped to mold Mr. Lincoln's character as President, his long and varied experience at the bar in Illinois was one of the most conspicuous and important.

The mechanical execution of the book is excellent, and a profusion of interesting illustrations, many of them new, adds greatly to its attractiveness.

FLOYD R. MECHEM.

The American Nation: a History. Edited by ALBERT BUSHNELL HART. Volume 17. *Westward Extension, 1841-1850.* By GEORGE PIERCE GARRISON, Ph.D., Professor of History, University of Texas. (New York and London: Harper and Brothers. 1906. Pp. xiv, 366.)

THE fifth decade of the last century was truly, as the editor of this series suggests, a "stirring period" in American history. It has been Professor Garrison's task to describe the administrations of Tyler and Polk as an epoch essentially complete in itself and markedly differentiated in spirit from the Jacksonian era which preceded, and from the ante-bellum period proper which followed it. Such an undertaking is not easy, for the period of the forties has usually been treated as a series of episodes in the history of the slavery question or as a prologue to that of secession and the Civil War. The difficulties surrounding the subject are not lessened by the fact that the volume is one of a series the dominant note of which is professedly national. If one were to write with an eye to the results of the great events of this decade, the growth of sectionalism rather than of nationalism might be stressed. The period was one of expansion, and Professor Garrison's thesis is that this expansion was the outcome of a national and not merely of a sectional sentiment; that the growing importance of the slavery question for a long time hindered rather than hastened it. The result of Professor Garrison's labors is a volume conceived in a spirit of fairness and executed with discriminating judgment.

The two principal characters of the period were, of course, the two